

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested. No claims have been added, cancelled, or amended. Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner notes that the claim "merely manipulates data.... without a limitation to a practical application in the technological arts."

Applicant respectfully notes that the claims as they currently stand do recite manipulation data that represents a physical object, as suggested by MPEP 2106 IVB2(b)(i). Claim 1 specifically recites "performing a screen conversion filter upon a scanned representation of said halftone image" and "producing an output image." A scanned halftone image and an output image clearly represent physical objects within the meaning of this suggestion.

Applicant furthermore respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Ex parte Lundgren, in which the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences eliminated the so-called technological arts requirement under § 101 (Appeal 2003-2088, B.P.A.I., September 2005). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of pending claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as non-statutory.

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Judith Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: _____

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